SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE; Sir, there is a very good proposal called the Asian Railway Project of ESCAP. Once this project is implemented, the whole area will be opened up. Until then we have no other course and transport has to be done mainly through river.

SHRI JAYANT MALHOUTRA: Sir, I am going to be very brief. When multinational companies are allowed an entry in the small scale industries, they are forced to export 50 or 75 per cent of their produce. But, there are some multinational companies in India which have an enormous knowhow in food processing industry and especially a company called Pepsi Cola has recently acquired the world's largest food processing company called Tropicans which has an enormous knowhow. I would like to know from the Government whether it would consider of forcing the Pepsi Cola to go and invest heavily in the North-East because by driblets there will be no development of the North-East. In order to develop exotic fruits there, which would be exported to India and other countries by this company, this compay is doing a lot of work in South America. This company has the world's largest knowhow for food processing.

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE: Sir, I am afraid that we cannot force any multinational or Indian company to go there and do this and do that. We will provide all facilities for such industrial units to go there, to produce and export.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Putting VSP on a Firm footing

*565. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to put Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on a firm footing;

(b) whether there is any proposal to sell part of the equity of VSP; and

(c) what steps have to be taken, in terms of technology upgradation to make Visakhapatnam Steel Plant healthy and self-sustaining alongwith full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have appointed a reputed consultant for preparing a comprehensive revival package for RINL (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant). This will cover all aspects including technological issues.

गुजरात में इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित करना

*566. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में आठवीं योजना के दौरान इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने हेतु कुल कितनी धनराशि दी गई;

(ख) उक्त धनराशि से कितनी इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित की गई;

(ग) क्या परियोजनाओं की स्थापना हेतु उपलब्ध कराये गए ऋणों पर ब्याज की दर में कोई रियायत दी जा रही है; और

(ग) क्या आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने के लिए कोई प्राथमिकता दी जाती है?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री नवीन पटनायक): (क) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि के दौरान गुजरात में इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार अथवा गुजरात सरकार द्वारा कोई बजटीय प्रावधान नहीं किया गया था।

(ख) से (घ) उपरोक्त (क) को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Committee under Equal Remuneration Act

*567. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have constituted a Committee under the Equal Remuneration Act;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and the date of last meeting of the Committee;

(c) whether Government have given an assurance to reconstitute this Committee; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?